

The Knoxville Independent

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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—secure within its fold!
Your heart and my heart—beat quicker at the sight;
Sun-kissed and wind-tossed, red and blue and white.
The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you—
Glories all else beside—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it flies today
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Roused and bloodied, the stripes forever gleam;
Sun-white and sea-white—the good forefathers' dream.

Sky-blue and true blue, with stars to gleam bright—
The glorious guidon of the day; a shelter through the night.

Your Flag and my Flag! To every star and stripe
The drums beat as hoarse bass and flutes shrilly pipe!
Your Flag and my Flag—a blessing in the sky;
Your hope and my hope—it never hid a lie!
Home land and far land and half the world around,
Old Glory bears our glad salute and ripples to the sound!



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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

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Join to Cut Living Cost.

Methods were outlined at a meeting at New York of the delegates of the consumers' co-operative societies of the eastern states for organization of a gigantic system to eliminate the middleman, lower the price and simplify the distribution of food by bringing the consumer and distributor into direct relationship.

Approximately 1,000 co-operative stores throughout the United States will be federated with central officers, and the members of the trades unions will be asked to give their co-operation.

James W. Sullivan, a representative of the American Federation of Labor, announced at the meeting that the labor organization approved the plan.

Check Competition for Labor.

Measures to check competition for labor between the war industries and government agencies have been taken by the department of labor. This was announced after a delegation of Virginia truck growers, headed by Representative Holland, had called on Assistant Secretary Post with a protest that the farmers would lose a million bushels of potatoes this year if the enticement of farm laborers by industrial concerns were permitted to continue. The delegation was told that the department already had directed the cancellation of extravagant advertisements for men, which are considered detrimental to the government's war program.



1

Photo by Western Newspaper Union



3

Photo by Western Newspaper Union



2

Photo by Western Newspaper Union

1—It is by means of heavy guns such as are shown in this picture that the Italians hope to convince the Teutons along the River Plate that in the twentieth century civilization right only is might. 2—Laborers and soldiers are continually repairing the highways leading to the fighting front wrecked by German shells and heavy traffic. 3—The result of a trench raid; a squad of German prisoners captured by the French and brought into the wire-fenced prison camp.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Japan Offers to Land Troops in Siberia If Allies Say the Word.

EMBASSIES LEAVE PETROGRAD

Traveling Through Bandit-Infested Siberia to Reach Safety—Austria Cannot Break Away From Her Alliance With Germany.

Japan has asked for permission to land troops in Siberia to prevent the vast quantities of munitions and other military stores at Vladivostok and along the lines of the Siberian railroad from falling into the hands of the Germans. It was feared that the Germans might attempt to force the bolsheviks to deliver these stores to the Germans as a part of a peace agreement. Japan announced her willingness to undertake such an expedition by herself or in connection with troops sent by other of the allied nations.

While all officials at Washington are silent and disposed to minimize discussion of the subject it is known that exchanges of opinion are going on with the object of a perfect understanding between Japan, the United States and the other co-belligerents which would make the plan of joint action wholly acceptable to all and thoroughly define its extent and duration.

Russian representatives at Washington oppose action by the Japanese in Siberia, but the co-belligerents are thoroughly alarmed lest the vast quantities of supplies piled up at Vladivostok, bought and paid for with American cash, should fall into the hands of the Germans.

Criticism at home of the failure of Japan to play a larger part in the war is said to have been influential in bringing about the negotiations.

Our boys have had their first taste of the deadly Hun gas. Without warning of any kind gas shells began bursting among the men of an American artillery regiment on the western front, and more than 200 men were down before they could put on gas masks. Eight men died within a few minutes and 200 were taken to hospitals where they suffered every conceivable torture while the doctors worked over them in an effort to get air into their lungs. While the American troops in France have been supplied with gas equipment and with gas shells for the field guns they had never been used, American commanders feeling that they could not bring themselves to so violate all evidences of civilization by such a method of warfare. The gassing of American troops has, however, convinced our commanders at the front that they must fight the Hun in his own way, brutal and inhuman though that way may be, and the Boches will be given a taste of their own weapons.

The strain between Austria and Germany is undoubtedly increasing. Austria's refusal to again attack Russia in spite of Germany's renewal of the war against the bolsheviks has increased the tenseness of the situation existing between the two governments, and it was reported that Germany had practically ordered the Austrian government to send troops into Russia, and that Austria had refused. Austria also refuses to continue the war against Roumania so long as there is a possibility of concluding a peace arrangement with that nation. Poor Roumania, cut off from every possible source of assistance from the outside, without munitions or adequate guns can seemingly do nothing more than accept such peace terms as the Huns may offer.

The most encouraging thing for the future of both Roumania and Russia is the statement made for the allied governments to the effect that any peace that may be forced upon these two countries by the Teutonic nations will not be considered as final, and particularly so if such a peace involves the cession of any territory to the nations

of the central powers. The allied nations are committed to the terms of no annexations and no indemnities for Germany or her cohorts. To permit Russia to seize the best provinces of Germany would mean simply preparing the German people for a repetition of their attack on the world's freedom in the future.

The speech of Count von Hertling, German imperial chancellor, before the reichstag, in reply to President Wilson's most recent address before congress regarding the war aims of the United States, is not regarded by leaders in the United States or England as increasing the chance for peace. Count von Hertling professed acceptance of the four principles of a democratic peace enunciated by President Wilson and disclaimed any intention of conquest but these protestations have not convinced President Wilson and his advisers. It is said, that Germany is ready to forgo ambitions of conquest. Other parts of the chancellor's speech are regarded as conclusive proof that Germany intends retaining control, in one form or another, of nearly all the foreign territory that she now occupies.

Count von Hertling's reference to Belgium is far from satisfactory. While hinting that Germany does not contemplate annexing Belgium, the chancellor proposes to impose conditions which would rest the freedom of action of the kingdom and place it at the mercy of the Teutonic empire.

The entente point of view was expressed by one distinguished diplomat who declared that von Hertling's speech has effectively closed the door to further peace talk. "Belgium is a question of honor," he declared. "It cannot be discussed. So long as the enemy refuses to do justice to Belgium they cannot be expected to perform justice in any other instances."

While the long-distance debate between the statesmen of the belligerent countries has been looked upon with approval by leaders of thought in this country on the theory that no chance of effecting a peace on terms acceptable to the allies should be overlooked, at the same time there has been a feeling that the continued peace talk may have a harmful effect upon the public morale in the allied countries. There has been a determination in Washington not to permit any peace discussions to delay war preparations for one minute, and the only harmful effect, it is declared, would be upon the spirit of the people.

While there are still conflicting opinions as to whether Germany will undertake a real offensive on the west front this spring, reports coming indirectly from Germany indicate that the German public is being prepared for the tremendous losses that must result if such an offensive is attempted. Dispatches from Stockholm declare that the German high command has given the executive committee of the reichstag the confidential information that the contemplated offensive will cost Germany a million men. For this staggering price, it is declared, General von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff have absolutely guaranteed success. Leaders of the majority in the reichstag are said to be reconciled to the offensive as the only thing left for Germany to do, but there is a widespread feeling of pity and horror that a million lives should be sacrificed when victory, however great it may be, will not force peace. The Germans, it is declared, at the most, expect that a big military victory will convince America and England that Germany is unshakable and to make the western world amenable to suggestions for a peace conference.

While the allied commanders realize that the expected German offensive will be a staggering blow to withstand, they are confident that the western line will hold, and that the Hun plans will result in defeat for the central powers. America will soon have half a million men on the western front, England has added nearly half a million more men to her vast army under General Haig, and while the French army is not any larger in numbers than it was, it is stronger in guns and munitions, and the determination of French troops to defeat Germany is stronger if possible, than it was during the long months of the Verdun campaign.

Both the English, the French and the

American forces occupy splendid positions throughout practically the entire line. They are in nearly all cases on the high ground, and it is these strong defensive positions against which Germany must throw her shock troops in massed battalions. The price these troops will pay for even an attempt to break through will be terrific, and in all probability more than the million men von Hindenburg has prophesied. It is not likely that even the iron discipline of the German army will withstand such losses.

Possibility of a disagreement between the United States and Spain because of the refusal of the latter country to supply certain war materials to General Pershing was removed by the signing of an economic agreement, under which General Pershing will get mules, army blankets and other materials from Spain in return for cotton, oil and other commodities from the United States. Success of these negotiations was welcomed by officials in Washington as ability to buy supplies in Spain will save ship tonnage and enable General Pershing to build up his reserve stores more rapidly. The United States was able to bring pressure to bear upon Spain by refusing fuel to Spanish steamers in American ports.

The German invasion of Russia mysteriously slowed up and on March first it was reported from London that the forward movement of the Huns had been stopped on orders from Berlin. At the same time reports from Petrograd were to the effect that the bolsheviks were preparing to make the best possible defense of that city if it was attacked.

On February 28 it was reported from Petrograd that the allied ambassadors had left the Russian capital for Siberia. It is unlikely that they will be able to reach the Pacific coast at Vladivostok in less than three weeks, and the probabilities are that they will be seriously molested by the mobs of armed bandits that are roaming the country from the Ural mountains to beyond Lake Balkal. The bolsheviks have practically no control of any kind beyond the Ural mountains, though it claims to have suppressed the so-called Siberian republic.

Every report received from Austria indicates that that country would willingly seek peace on any fairly reasonable basis offered by the allies, if it were possible for her to do so, but she is so dominated by German influence that it is hardly possible for her to break away. The hold of Germany is maintained through the Austrian army which has been very largely Germanized since the war began.

So it is believed that Austria will have to remain in her unholy partnership despite her war weariness. She has lost 3,500,000 men, her food situation is desperate, and the future, even if Germany could win, is dark for her, for a greater Germany would only mean a more impotent Austria, but she cannot break away. She must continue in the war under pain of being stamped on by the nation that has her in its power.

That is how our allies regard the Austrian situation, and is the explanation of their lukewarmness toward the American effort to widen the rift between the kaiser and Emperor Carl.

The German socialists have not taken kindly to the German government's attitude toward President Wilson's last peace message. During the debate in the reichstag on von Hertling's speech Philipp Scheidemann, socialist, took the emperor to task for his reply to the address of the burgo-master of Hamburg, in which the emperor said: "We desire to live in friendship with neighboring peoples, but victory for the German arms must first be recognized."

"The imperial chancellor frankly stated yesterday that he accepted President Wilson's four principles," said Scheidemann. "This declaration is all the more important when one considers that President Wilson emphasized that his principles were accepted everywhere except by the German military and annexationist party. Well, this party, fortunately, is in this country no longer of decisive importance."

THIS WAR IS OUR WAR

While it is our war, all of us must serve. We must serve because our country needs our service. We cannot all serve in trenches with guns in our hands but we can save. Do as thousands of others have done at the Holston National Bank, Open your Savings Account now, and let it mark the beginning of your real service for your Country. We Pay 4 per cent On Savings Accounts

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TO THE REPUBLICAN VOTERS OF KNOX COUNTY:

I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office of

SHERIFF OF KNOX COUNTY

subject to the primary, March 21, 1918.

I was born and reared in Knox County, at Thorn Grove, and have lived there all my life. I am a practical farmer and live on a small farm. I have never held public except by appointment.

Four years ago I came within 62 votes of receiving the nomination for this office. Patiently I have awaited the opportune time to thus realize an ambition of a life time.

If nominated and elected to the office to which I aspire I will perform all duties incumbent on the office in a faithful and conscientious manner; will enforce the laws without fear or favor and give everyone a square deal. If you think I am the man for the office I will appreciate your vote and influence.

Yours truly

W. T. CATE

TO THE VOTERS OF KNOX COUNTY

In making my announcement for a second term, as Register of Deeds for Knox County, subject to the Republican primary to be held March 21, 1918, I desire to call your attention to a few facts: I have saved the patrons of this office thousands of dollars in the close inspection of deeds before placing the same of record.

I have caused to be corrected more than 2,000 errors.

Had these deeds gone to record, as presented, it would have cost thousands of dollars in expenses and possible litigation.

I have also assisted patrons of this office in giving information which has saved for them hundreds of dollars.

I have been kind and courteous to all.

I have kept nothing but competent help.

I have endeavored to give you the very best service possible.

I will thank you for your support in the coming primary.

I promise no better service; but do promise the same efficient service, together with kind, courteous treatment to all.

Your Servant.

JAS. H. COPELAND

CHAS. K. HOUSHOLDER

Candidate For The Republican Nomination For

CONSTABLE

SECOND DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY

He is competent to fill the office and refers to his record, having had five years service as an officer, and promises a faithful discharge of the duties of the office if nominated and elected. He will appreciate your support and influence in the primary March 21st